

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A paraffin filter, comprising:  
a housing having an inlet and an outlet;  
a filter medium for filtering particles from melted paraffin passing through said filter; and  
a layer of material positioned adjacent said particle filter for preventing solidification of  
5 paraffin passing through the particle filter medium.
  
2. The paraffin filter of Claim 1, wherein said inlet and outlet are axially aligned, and  
a body of said filter is disk-shaped.
  
3. The paraffin filter of Claim 1, wherein said material layer comprises a porous material  
that is compressible.
  
4. The paraffin filter of Claim 3, wherein said porous material comprises a polyester felt  
material.
  
5. The paraffin filter of Claim 1, wherein said particle filter comprises a polyester  
material for filtering particulate matter of a first diameter, and further including a polypropylene  
membrane for filtering particles of diameter smaller than said polyester material.
  
6. The paraffin filter of Claim 1, wherein said particle medium is effective to filter  
bacteria from melted paraffin and wherein said filter medium includes a support backing and a  
powder formed on one side thereof for filtering bacteria from melted paraffin.

7. A paraffin filter, comprising:

a first end cap formed of a plastic material, said first end cap having a tubular inlet with a bore therethrough, and a disk-like body with a peripheral edge and an interface surface, said disk-like body having a first opening that opens into the bore of said tubular inlet, said disk-like body having

5 a second opening larger than said first opening, and said second opening opens into the interface surface;

a second end cap formed of a plastic material, said second end cap having a tubular outlet with a bore therethrough, said second end cap including a disk-like body with a peripheral edge, and an interface surface facing the interface surface of said first end cap, the disk-like body of said 10 second end cap having a first opening that opens into the bore of said tubular outlet, said disk-like body of said second end cap having a second opening larger than the bore of said tubular outlet, and said second opening opens into the interface surface of said second end cap;

15 a filter medium sandwiched between the interface surfaces of said first and second end caps; and

the peripheral edges of said first and second end caps bonded together to make unitary the first and second end caps.

8. The paraffin filter of Claim 7, further including one or more ridges formed on one of said interface surfaces of said first or second end caps, each said ridge encircling the respective first or second opening, each said ridge functioning to compress said filter medium and prevent passage of melted paraffin around the filter medium.

9. The paraffin filter of Claim 7, wherein the bond between said first and second end caps comprises a weld formed by ultrasonic means.

10. The paraffin filter of Claim 7, wherein an axial length of the disk-like body of said first end cap is shorter than an axial length of the tubular inlet thereof.

11. The paraffin filter of Claim 10, wherein an axial length of the disk-like body of said second end cap is shorter than an axial length of the tubular outlet of said second end cap, whereby said paraffin filter comprises a low profile filter.

12. The paraffin filter of Claim 7, wherein said filter medium includes a layer of a polyester felt material, and said polyester felt material is sandwiched between the interface surfaces of said first and second end caps so that a portion of said polyester felt material becomes compressed.

13. The paraffin filter of Claim 7, wherein said filter medium further includes a particulate filter material located on an upstream side of said polyester felt material.

14. The paraffin filter of Claim 13, further including a particulate filter material on a downstream side of said polyester felt material.

15. The paraffin filter of Claim 13, wherein said particulate filter material comprises a spun-bonded polyester layer that is precompressed to form a rigid wafer before being installed in said paraffin filter.

16. The filter medium of Claim 7, wherein said paraffin filter is constructed with a circular peripheral edge.

17. The paraffin filter of Claim 16, wherein a diameter of said circular peripheral edge is about 47 mm.

18. The paraffin filter of Claim 7, wherein said tubular inlet is adapted for a friction fit thereto of a pliable tubing.

19. The paraffin filter of Claim 7, further including in combination a suction pump connected to the tubular outlet of said paraffin filter for drawing melted paraffin through said paraffin filter.

20. The paraffin filter of claim 7, further including a reservoir of melted paraffin, and a flexible tubing connecting the reservoir of melted paraffin to the tubular inlet of said paraffin filter.